

December 17, 2020

Good afternoon EGF ISD 595 Families and Staff Members!

I hope your week is going well and you are getting excited for the holiday break. The holiday season will look different for many families this year, but I am hopeful that things will get back to normal in the near future. There are just a few remaining school days in calendar year 2020 and I am excited for 2021 to begin! Please take a little time to review the following information and feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Happy Holidays!

Mike Kolness

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12.16.20 Governor Walz Announcements - Governor Walz announced changes to the [Safe Learning Plan for the 2020-21 School Year](#) on December 16, 2020. One of the major changes in the Safe Learning Plan states that starting on January 18, 2021, every elementary school across the state may choose to operate an in-person learning model as long as they are able to implement all updated health and safety measures.

PLEASE NOTE - On December 8, 2020, the East Grand Forks Board of Education approved transitioning students back to school for in-person instruction for grades PK-5 and hybrid model for grades 6-12 on Monday, January 4, 2021. Since the decision was made and communicated to families and staff members before the 12.16.20, the District does not need to follow the January 18, 2021 rollout process listed in the updated Safe Learning Plan for 2020-21. **East Grand Forks ISD 595 is planning to have students return to school in the models listed above on January 4, 2021. If something happens that would not allow for the transition, families and staff members will be notified as soon as possible.** Please go to [12.9.20 EGF ISD 595 Learning Model](#) if you have any questions about the learning model information that was sent to families and staff members last week.

MSHSL Winter Activities Update - Governor Walz also announced the extension of the pause to youth activities through January 4, 2021. There was hope that the pause would be lifted at the end of this week, but it did not happen. I am thankful that a date has been set and planning for the start of winter activities can begin.

COVID-19 Case Numbers - The most recent [MN 14-Day Case Rate by County](#) was released today and is continuing to drop. The latest 14-day number for Polk County of **165.55** is still very high, but it is nice to see the 14-day case rates drop. The following spreadsheet contains updated school district positive case data from the beginning of the school year through December 13, 2020 and December 16, 2020.

East Grand Forks ISD 595 Positive COVID-19 Case Data through 12.13.20						
	New Heights	South Point	CMS	Senior High	District Wide	Total
Student Positive Cases from 9/8/20 to 12/13/20	4	6	15	24	0	49
Staff Positive Cases from 9/8/20 to 12/13/20	8	5	6	9	1	29
Total Positive COVD Cases from 9/8/20 to 12/13/20	12	11	21	33	1	78
NOT IN SCHOOL						
Student Positive Cases from 9/8/20 to 12/13/20 - NOT IN SCHOOL	17	13	17	22	0	69
Staff Positive Cases from 9/8/20 to 12/13/20 - NOT IN SCHOOL	5	3	7	3	2	20
Total Positive Cases from 9/8/20 to 12/13/20 - NOT IN SCHOOL	22	16	24	25	2	89
GRAND TOTAL OF POSITIVE CASES	34	27	45	58	3	167
Case Number Increases from 12.4.20 to 12.13.20	2	2	3	4	0	11
Case Number Increases from 11.12 to 12.13.20	11	9	8	4	1	33

East Grand Forks ISD 595 Positive COVID-19 Case Data through 12.16.20						
	New Heights	South Point	CMS	Senior High	District Wide	Total
Student Positive Cases from 9/8/20 to 12/16/20	4	6	15	24	0	49
Staff Positive Cases from 9/8/20 to 12/16/20	9	5	6	10	2	32
Total Positive COVD Cases from 9/8/20 to 12/16/20	13	11	21	34	2	81
NOT IN SCHOOL						
Student Positive Cases from 9/8/20 to 12/16/20 - NOT IN SCHOOL	17	13	18	23	0	71
Staff Positive Cases from 9/8/20 to 12/16/20 - NOT IN SCHOOL	5	3	7	3	2	20
Total Positive Cases from 9/8/20 to 12/16/20 - NOT IN SCHOOL	22	16	25	26	2	91
GRAND TOTAL OF POSITIVE CASES	35	27	46	60	4	172
Case Number Increases from 12.13.20 to 12.16.20	1	0	1	2	1	5
Case Number Increases from 11.12.20 to 12.16.20	12	9	9	6	2	38

FRIENDLY REMINDER to Report Absences and COVID Information - It is extremely critical for decision making purposes that parents and staff members continue to notify ths school district about COVID related absences and cases. PLEASE continue to communicate absences and COVID cases to the individual building offices and feel free to contact members of the COVID intake group or district office if you have any questions or concerns.

Green Wave Recognition Recipients - It was really nice to have some sense of normalcy at the last school board meeting when three students and a staff member were recognized by the Board of Education for their accomplishments during the fall athletic season. CONGRATULATIONS to the following "Green Wave Recognition" recipients!

- Tyson Mahar - Section 8A Cross Country Champion
- Thomas Ellis and Grace Kronlund - 2nd Team All-State Soccer
- Kirk Misialek - Section 8A Cross Country Coach of the Year



Early Dismissal Days Reminder - MN Executive Orders 20-94 and 20-95 required school districts to implement plans to provide thirty minutes of additional prep time per day for teachers in hybrid and distance learning models. On November 23, 2020, the EGF ISD Board of Education approved a plan to dismiss students early on selected dates in December, January and February in order to meet the requirements of the Executive Orders. Please plan on early afternoon dismissal times on the following dates. The exact times for each building will be shared in the very near future. If the District is able to transition back to in-person instruction for all grade levels, the plans will be adjusted accordingly. Thank you for your patience, understanding, and support!

- January 8, 15, 22 & 29
- February 5, 11, 19 & 26

